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CLAIMS

1 CLAIM:

1. A method for entering letters of an alphabet using a computer having a display device, memory storage and operator-selectable input elements, the method comprising assigning more than one letter to at least one input element such that more than one series of letters may result from a single series of selected input elements, storing words in the memory storage, and displaying on the display device, as an operator selects each input element forming the series of selected input elements, those series of letters for which a match is found among, at least the beginning of the words, stored in the memory storage for the sequences of letters associated with the input elements thus far selected.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying series of letters associated with the selected input elements that match a word or words stored in the memory storage and selecting one of the displayed words.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein when a match is found in the memory storage, removing from the display, series of letters associated with the input elements selected by the operator for which no match was found with words in the memory storage when the operator subsequently selects an input element.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising defining a new word and storing the

5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the input elements is associated with a single letter.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein most of the input elements are associated with no more than two letters.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein all of the input elements are associated with two letters.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning comprises assigning vowels alphabetically on input elements mostly adjacent to each other in alphabetical order and the consonants are so placed that the vowels and consonants are substantially in alphabetical order.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein if there are no words located in the memory storage formed by the selected series of input elements, then displaying each of the letter or letters associated with each selected input element.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising selecting displayed letters to form a word not previously stored in memory storage and storing that word in memory storage.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising appending letter or letters associated with subsequently selected input elements only to the previously selected series of letters and displaying those appended series of selected letters.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying comprises displaying in a dynamic window.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein a match is found when letters associated with the input element(s) thus far selected correspond with letter(s) of a word stored in the memory storage in an identical order, the match starting with a letter associated with the first selected input element of the series of selected input elements through a last selected input element of the series of selected input elements.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein if an input element is associated with more than one letter, each letter is matched separately.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein if a match is found in the memory storage, then appending each letter associated with a subsequently selected input element separately to each series of letters displayed immediately prior to selection of the subsequently selected input element; and displaying on the display device the series of letters associated with the input elements thus far selected.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein if there are no words located in the memory storage formed by the selected series of input elements, then displaying one or more closest series of letters.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting one of the displayed series of letters and removing the unselected series of letters from the display device.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising re-displaying on the display device the removed unselected series of letters.
19. The method of claim 17, further comprising appending letter or letters associated with subsequently selected input elements only to the previously selected series of letters and displaying those appended series of selected letters.
20. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting one of the displayed series of letters, eliminating the non-selected series from the display, and appending further selected input elements only to the selected series of letters.
21. The method of claim 17, wherein a default series of letters is selected upon the operator selecting a space bar or punctuation.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein a space is automatically inserted after the default series of letters is displayed.
23. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the displayed series of letters is displayed in a home line, and the other displayed series of letters are displayed in successive rows below the home line.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein a series of letters displayed below the home line may be scrolled into the home line.
25. The method of claim 23, further comprising displaying a number adjacent to

each series of letters displayed below the home line and selecting a series of letters by selecting the number adjacent to the series of letters.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising adding a space after the selected series of letters and eliminating the unselected series of letters from the display.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising eliminating the unselected series of letters from the display.

28. The method of claim 23, further comprising selecting a series of letters displayed in a first line below the home line by selecting a first select key.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the first select key automatically inserts a space after the selected series of letters.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the first select key automatically adds a space after the selected series of letters only when the selected series of letters comprises more than one letter.

31. The method of claim 23, wherein the operator may scroll a letter or series of letters from below the home line to the home line.

32. The method of claim 28, further comprising selecting a series of letters displayed in a second line below the home line by selecting a second select key.

33. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of enabling the operator to select one of the displayed series of letters.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising adding a space after the selected series of letters.

35. The method of claim 23, further comprising selecting a series of letters by using a mouse.

36. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of enabling the operator to enter a delay mode in which selection of a series of letters is delayed.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the delay mode allows the operator to edit a previously selected series of letters.

38. The method of claim 23, wherein the series of letters displayed in the home line is based upon statistical use.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the statistical use is based upon a number of possible words associated with a series of letters thus far selected.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the statistical use provides that after a consonant is selected by the operator, a vowel has higher priority than another consonant.

41. The method of claim 38, wherein the statistical use provides that after a vowel is selected by the operator, a consonant has higher priority than another vowel.
42. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning comprises assigning indicators to the input elements, the indicators indicating which finger is to be placed on each input element.
43. The method of claim 23, wherein the series of letters displayed in the home line is selected by default upon entry of a space bar, punctuation mark or select entry key.
44. The method of claim 43, wherein the series of letters displayed in the home line is selected by default upon the operator selecting a space bar or punctuation.
45. The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of adding a space after the selected series of letters by the selection of the space bar, punctuation or input element select key.
46. The method of claim 1, wherein if no series of letters possibly forms a word, then displaying each letter associated with each input element of the series of selected input elements, either from the beginning of the series of letters or from the last selected input element in the series of letters associated with a possible word in memory storage.
47. The method of claim 1, wherein none of the displayed words are a desired word, then displaying each letter associated with each input element of the series of selected

input elements, either from the beginning of the series of letters or from the last selected input element in the series of letters associated with a possible word in memory storage.

48. The method of claim 1, wherein when no match is found, selecting one displayed letter for each of the selected input elements to form a word.

49. The method of claim 48, further comprising storing the formed word in the memory storage.

50. The method of claim 46, wherein for each selected input element one of the displayed letters is displayed in a home line and the remaining letters are displayed in successive rows beneath the home line.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the operator may move any of the displayed letters into the home line.

52. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning comprises assigning more than one letter to at least one input element so that more than one possible word may result from a single series of selected input elements.

53. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the completion of a word includes actuation of an actuation mechanism.